

# MAB International Retail Trust ASIC Regulatory Guide 46 Disclosure

This Enhanced Disclosure is issued by MAB Funds Management Limited ("MAB Funds") as Responsible Entity for the MAB International Retail Trust ("MIRT" or "Trust" or "Fund") pursuant to ASIC Regulatory Guide 46 (RG 46): "Unlisted property schemes – improving disclosure for retail investors." The Regulatory Guide lists eight disclosure principles that ASIC has developed which relate to upfront and continuous disclosure requirements for Retail Property.

The Fund has applied these eight disclosure principles in accordance with the form and content stated in RG 46. Investors should be aware that previous disclosures made by the Fund of some of these or similar principles reflect market standard practices which may be different to the requirements of RG 46. Investors are invited to have reference to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statements and other publicly released materials which are available at www.mabfunds.com.au.

MAB Funds is committed to providing investors with timely disclosure of all material matters concerning the Fund in accordance with its continuous disclosure obligations, including RG 46. Key information in this document will be updated annually, and any material changes will be updated as soon as practicable. These updates will be made available on the MAB Funds Website.

The information in this document is based on the most recent financial statements for the Fund, being for the period ended 30 June 2017. The information below contains an overview of ASIC's description of the eight disclosure principles, MAB Funds responses to those key risk areas and a description of their practical application.

#### Background:

MAB International Retail Trust is an unlisted property Trust which indirectly owns 5 investment properties located in the south eastern states of the United States of America. These assets were acquired during 2006 and 2007 through wholly owned subsidiaries of MIRT per the disclosure in the combined Product Disclosure Statement and Prospectus dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The Trust is managed by MAB Funds as Responsible Entity.

This enhanced disclosure document aims to improve disclosure for retail investors by providing information relating to 8 principles:

Principle	What to look for as an investor
Gearing Ratio	To what extent are the Fund's assets funded by debts?
2. Interest Cover	Can the fund meet its interest payments from its earnings?
3. Fund Borrowing	When must the Fund's debts be repaid?
4. Portfolio Diversification	Does the Fund Manager mitigate risk by spreading the money it invests between
	different properties?
5. Valuation Policy	How are the assets within the fund valued?
6. Related Party Transactions	How many of the Fund's transactions involve parties related to the Responsible
	Entity?
7. Distribution Practices	How are distributions funded and are they sustainable?
8. Withdrawal Arrangements	Is there a withdrawal arrangement for the fund?

# 1. Gearing Ratio

# **Disclosure Principle**

This principle indicates the extent to which the Trust's assets are funded by external liabilities.

RG 46 defines gearing ratio as:

Total interest bearing liabilities divided by Total assets

# **ASIC Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "a higher gearing ratio means a higher reliance on external liabilities (primarily borrowings) to fund assets. This exposes the scheme to increased funding costs if interest rates rise. A highly geared scheme has a lower asset buffer to rely upon in times of financial stress."

## **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 1**

MAB International Retail Trust ("MIRT" or "Trust") is capitalised with a combination of debt and equity. At 30 June 2017, the Trust had a gearing ratio of 52.1% and as at 30 June 2016 the Trust had a gearing ratio of 49.2%. This ratio indicates the extent to which the Assets of the Trust are funded by external liabilities or third party debt.

Higher levels of gearing reduce the amount of equity required to acquire an asset. Gearing increases risk as the value of equity declines more rapidly when prices decline for more highly geared assets.

Gearing exposes MIRT to funding costs and therefore interest rate risk. Generally, as interest rates fall, so too does the cost of borrowing, and conversely as interest rates rise, borrowing costs increase.

The Trust does not have any off balance sheet financing as at 30 June 2017.

# 2. Interest cover

# **Disclosure Principle**

This principle indicates the Trust's ability to meet interest payments from earnings.

RG 46 defines interest cover ratio as:

(EBITDA minus unrealised gains plus unrealised losses) divided by interest expense

# **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "interest cover is a key indicator of financial health. The lower the interest cover, the higher the risk that the scheme will not be able to meet its interest payments. A scheme with a low interest cover only needs a small reduction in earnings (or a small increase in interest rates or other expenses) to be unable to meet its interest payments."

#### **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 2**

During the 12 months to 30 June 2017, MIRT had an interest cover ratio of 2.00 times compared to a ratio of 2.23 times a year earlier.

This implies that the Trust's realised earnings before interest and taxes (minus unrealised gains plus unrealised losses) were 2.00 times greater than its interest expenses for the period. This ratio is utilised to monitor the Fund's overall profitability as a ratio to finance costs. The Fund's ability or inability to meet interest payments depends on a variety of factors including changes in underlying earnings and interest rates. Refer to section 3, fund borrowings for updated disclosure on this matter.

# 3. Scheme borrowing

# **Disclosure Principle**

This principle requires information on the Trust's borrowing maturity and credit facility expiry and any associated risks

# **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "relatively short-term borrowings and credit facilities with short expiry dates are a risk factor if they are used to fund assets intended to be held long term. If the scheme has a significant proportion of its borrowings that mature within a short timeframe, it will need to refinance. There is a risk that the refinancing will be on less favourable terms or not available at all. If the fund cannot refinance, it may need to sell assets on a forced sale basis with the risk that it may realise a capital loss. Breach of a loan covenant may result in penalties being applied, or the loan becoming repayable immediately. This means that the fund may need to refinance on less favourable terms or sell assets. Termination of critical financing could also mean the scheme is no longer viable."

## **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 3**

# **Debt Maturity Summary and Profile:**

The Trust's portfolio of Debt and its maturity profile is summarised in the following tables:

Debt Facility Profile at 30 June 2016	ount vn/Facility t US\$	Loan Type	Facility Maturity Date	Effective Interest Rate*	Interest Rate Type
Debt Facility Provider A - U.S. CMBS Loan	\$ 8,995,279	Amortising	Sep-2023	6.10%	Fixed
Debt Facility Provider B - U.S. CMBS Loan	\$ 6,043,295	Amortising	Apr-2025	6.18%	Fixed
Debt Facility Provider D - U.S. CMBS Loan	\$ 1,736,381	Amortising	Jul-2024	6.35%	Fixed
Australian Lender - Facility E1	\$ 2,275,000	Interest Only	Oct-2017	4.05%	Floating
Australian Lender - Facility E2	\$ 2,335,000	Interest Only	Oct-2017	4.05%	Floating
Australian Lender - Facility E3	\$ 2,610,000	Interest Only	Oct-2017	4.05%	Floating
Total Senior Debt	\$ 23,994,955				

Gearing has the potential to enhance investor returns, whilst increasing the potential for capital gains and capital losses. There are four debt capital providers which have partially funded the acquisition of assets within MIRT and all facilities have a fixed term to maturity. The expiry of the facilities can be brought forward and financial penalties applied if there is a breach of covenants under the loan documents.

Any requirement to repay or refinance debt creates a capital funding and liquidity risk, particularly in an environment where asset prices are declining. For instance when the a loan facility matures, MAB Funds would be required to either refinance or extend the existing debt facility beyond the maturity date, or alternatively replace the debt with additional equity capital, or a combination of the two. In the event that these options are not achievable, asset sales may be required by the existing lenders to facilitate repayment at the Facility Maturity Date. There is also a risk that the refinancing available at this time is on less favourable terms.

#### **Maturity of Australian Lender Facility**

Subsequent to 30 June 2017, the Scheme has agreed to extend the expiry date relating the USD\$7.2M financing facility with National Australia Bank from 31 October 2017, until the next unit redemption opportunity on 9 March 2019.

#### **Financial Covenants**

The facility providers have financial covenants which have been satisfied at 30 June 2017.

### **Ranking of Unitholders**

Unitholders should be aware that amounts owing to lenders and other creditors of the scheme rank before an investor's interests in the scheme. As part of the debt financing arrangements, lenders receive a first mortgage of the property asset or assets relating to the funding as well as a fixed and floating charge over the assets. This security gives the debt provider the right to take possession of the assets in the event of default under the loan documents.

# **Hedging Arrangements**

Currently, no hedging is in place for the MIRT portfolio. The Australian lender has waived any requirements relating to interest rate hedging. All USD loans are fixed interest amortising loans.

Management continues to monitor both interest and foreign exchange exposures and will consider implementing a hedging arrangement if it is believed to be in the best interests of unitholders.

# 4. Portfolio Diversification

#### **Disclosure Principle**

This information addresses the Trust's investment practices and direct property investment portfolio risk.

#### **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "generally, the more diversified a portfolio is, the lower the risk that an adverse event affecting one property or one lease will put the overall portfolio at risk."

#### **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 4**

# **Geographic and Sector Diversification:**

The portfolio of assets is comprised of investment property and there is no development property. The initial investment strategy was to create a portfolio of assets concentrated within a growth area that provided strong stable cash flows. There was a preference for non-discretionary food based retailing which is less affected by economic cycles.

# **Geographic Diversification:**

All Assets are located in North Carolina, USA.

#### **Sector Diversification:**

All assets within the portfolio are retail assets, following the Trusts strategy to concentrate on non-discretionary food based retailing. The Investment strategy was to acquire defensive assets with stable cash flows.

# **Summary of Investment Property and Current Valuations:**

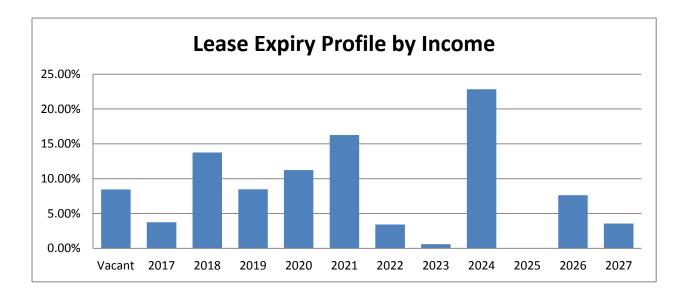
Property	Location	GLA	Indepen Valuatio		Cap Rate
Grandview	North Carolina	54,600	\$	4,950,000	8.0%
Cheshire Place & Cheshire Commons	North Carolina	57,279	\$	11,500,000	9.3%
Eastfield	North Carolina	95,562	\$	14,760,000	10.0%
Terraces	North Carolina	81,440	\$	13,100,000	8.1%
		288,881		44,310,000	

Other than Grandview Plaza, the valuations are based on purchasers offer received as part of a portfolio sales campaign in July 2017. Grandview Plaza did not receive any stand-alone offers and has been valued in accordance with independent valuers report dated 30 June 2017

For further information with respect to the Valuation Policy, refer to disclosure principle 5.

# **Leasing Profile and Occupancy Levels**

The portfolio has a 91.55% occupancy level by income and a weighted average lease expiry profile of 4.24 years. The charts below demonstrate the lease expiry profile for MIRT as at 30 June 2017 as well as the 5 largest tenants along with their percentage contribution to gross income.



Rank	Tenant	Percentage of Total Gross Annual Income
1	Food Lion	15.36%
2	Harris Teeter	13.30%
3	BiLo	10.08%
4	Gold's Gym	2.77%
5	LAT Fitness	2.60%

In assessing risk with respect to diversification of a property portfolio, investors should consider diversification with respect to geographic location, sector exposure, and diversification of major tenants.

# 5. Valuation Policy

#### **Disclosure Principle**

This information relates to key aspects of the Trust's valuation policy for real property assets

#### **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "investing in a property scheme exposes investors to movements in the value of the fund's assets. Investors therefore need information to assess the reliability of valuations. The more reliable a valuation, the more likely the asset will return that amount when it is sold. However, any forced sale may still result in a shortfall compared to the valuation."

# **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 5**

The Directors have a policy to obtain independent valuations at least every two years and that those valuations be completed on an as is basis. The valuations are required to be completed in accordance with relevant industry standards and be performed by an appropriately qualified and registered valuer. As part of the statutory reporting process, the Directors also assess the fair value of each asset at June and December of each reporting period.

Independent valuations were completed for all properties, dated 30 June 2017. Directors reviewed these valuations, with additional information obtained from a sales campaign, concluded in July 2017. The Directors concluded that, with the exception of Grandview Plaza, all assets should be valued in line with the offers received as part of this process.

Grandview Plaza did not receive any stand-alone purchase offers and therefore has been valued in line with the external valuation, dated 30 June 2017.

# 6. Related party transactions

#### **Disclosure Principle**

This relates to the responsible entity's approach to related party transactions

### **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "a conflict of interest may arise when property schemes invest in, make loans or provide guarantees to related parties."

#### **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 6**

Related party disclosures are reported in the Annual Accounts for each scheme, the most recent annual accounts dated are available on the MAB Funds Website <a href="https://www.mabfunds.com.au">www.mabfunds.com.au</a>.

Related parties of the Responsible Entity own units in the Trust.

The responsible entity has policies in place to manage related party transactions and conflicts of interest issues which form part of the overall Compliance process. These policies have been established to protect investors and any related party transactions are reported to the Compliance Committee. The committee is comprised of two independent committee members and a director of MAB Funds.

# 7. Distribution practices

# **Disclosure Principle**

This relates to information on the Trust's distribution practices

#### **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "some property schemes make distributions partly or wholly from unrealised revaluation gains and/or capital rather than solely from realised income. This may not be commercially sustainable over the longer term, particularly where property values are not increasing."

# **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 7**

Distributions are paid from current year profits and (to the extent necessary) prior year retained earnings. It is anticipated that future distributions will be funded by realised earnings from the portfolio of assets.

The responsible entity ensures that any material issues related to the Fund's distribution practices are notified to investors through ongoing disclosure which includes direct correspondence with investors via mail and email as well as through regular quarterly investor updates.

#### **Distribution Guidance**

Distributions were paid to the December 2016 quarter at 0.375 cents per unit.

Distributions ceased for March and June 2017 due to capital funding requirements relating to the extension of the Food Lion lease at Grandview Plaza. The capital works related to an overall upgrade of the presentation of the centre, improving the centres overall value, and were an agreed term of the negotiation to secure a new 10 year lease from the anchor tenant, Food Lion supermarket.

The distributions will re-commence in the September 2017 quarter at 0.375 cents per unit.

# 8. Withdrawal arrangements

#### **Disclosure Principle**

This relates to investors' withdrawal rights from the Trust

#### **ASIC's Description**

ASIC's description of this principle states that "unlisted property schemes often have limited or no withdrawal rights. This means they are usually difficult to exit."

#### **Practical Application of Disclosure Principle 8**

Per the disclosure in product disclosure statements and supplementary product disclosure statement, MIRT is an unlisted property Trust which indirectly invests in US retail assets. The PDS and Supplementary prospectus stated the following:

MAB Funds, in its own personal capacity would provide or cause a third party to provide a limited liquidity facility for the benefit of unitholders. Successful applicants will be paid the Net Tangible Asset backing per unit as at the end of the relevant calendar quarter less a discount of up to 5% of that value. MAB Funds reserves the right to suspend the provision of the facility under certain circumstances.

Per the disclosure to investors dated 1 July 2008, the facility remains suspended as the aggregate number of units held by the facility provider exceeds 9.95% of the total number of units issued by the Trust.

With respect to the exit strategy at the review date, the original Product Disclosure Statement notes that Unitholders will be given an opportunity to withdraw after 7 years from the issue of the Units, this opportunity was provided and unitholders wishing to exit had their units redeemed in March 2014.

For unitholders who have decided to remain invested, MIRT will now continue for a period of up to five years from 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014. We will provide a further right to withdraw on or about 9 March 2019. We would also like to confirm that we will continuously review the opportunity to sell the MIRT assets over the 5 year extension period. If we take the view that it is in investor's best interests to sell the assets and wind up the Trust during the extension period, then we will do so.